



**OXFAM**

News, views and insights from  
the Horn East and Central Africa  
(HECA) region and beyond



June 2021

# HECA VOICE



## NEWS, UPDATES & INSIGHTS FROM HECA & BEYOND



Photo by Abdiiaziz Adani/Oxfam

Welcome to HECA Voice, our monthly HECA newsletter containing the latest news, updates and insights from Oxfam in the Horn East and Central Africa (HECA) region – Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The newsletter provides a snapshot of the latest developments on work around our HECA vision programmatic priorities and how the issues therein have been highlighted further as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. On **tackling inequality**, we continue to address issues around civic engagement and space, promoting fair fiscal management and addressing gender-based socio-economic disparities.

On **transforming conflicts and crises** we continue to address the underlying causes of crisis in the region. The intersectionality of multiple crisis; COVID-19, climate change re-emphasize the need for broad based social protection systems that address the needs of vulnerable communities in urban areas and displaced persons including refugees.

The COVID-19 pandemic is triggering re-configurations of power on many fronts. Our commitment to localisation as part of the Charter for Change, coupled with the new context has moved HECA countries to be more intentional and pay greater attention to

**transformative partnerships with local and national actors.**

This month the newsletter focuses on the progress made in women's economic empowerment in Somalia and Uganda. From Somalia, we will get a better understanding of how women business owners are accessing finance whereas in Uganda we will see how enhancing the capacity of women and youth to take up leadership positions and influence decisions that affect their lives including strengthening their skills for increased production and income as well as empowering them with the knowledge to address gender-based violence has enabled them to achieve resilient, inclusive and sustainable livelihoods.

In addition, we would like to pay tribute to Ritah Nansereko (RIP), the Executive Director of African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD) in Uganda who lost the battle to COVID-19 on 25th June 2021.

Your readership and feedback is appreciated. Please feel free to reach us at [martin.namasaka@oxfam.org](mailto:martin.namasaka@oxfam.org).

## LATEST UPDATES FROM THE HECA REGION

Country	Update
Burundi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Burundi commemorates one year since President Nkurunziza's death</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Rising waters cause severe flooding in Burundi</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Burundi reopens borders with Tanzania, suspends mandatory quarantine</a></li><li>• <a href="#">European Union to lift sanctions against Burundi</a></li></ul>
DRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">President Tshisekedi assesses volcanic damage in Goma</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Lawyer sues to block Congo's admission to EAC bloc</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Tshisekedi says situation 'very serious' as COVID-19 deaths rise in DRC</a></li></ul>
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">US playing hardball with Ethiopia, rallies EU for more Addis sanctions</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Famine fears and fresh fighting: A humanitarian primer as Ethiopia heads to the polls</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Tigray rebels gain more ground, vow to drive out 'enemies'</a></li></ul>
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Kenya to reopen Mogadishu embassy, ministry says</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Kenya received 358,000 Covid doses, expects 13m by August</a></li><li>• <a href="#">World Bank approves Sh14bn loan for Covid-19 vaccines</a></li><li>• <a href="#">COVID-19: All Kenyan adults to be vaccinated by 2022, president says</a></li></ul>
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Teenage pregnancies spike in Acholi as COVID-19 lockdown bites</a></li><li>• <a href="#">COVID-19 Reversing Uganda's Projected 4% Economic Growth</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Difficult time for Museveni as lethal Covid strain takes toll on Ugandans</a></li><li>• <a href="#">IMF approves \$1bn loan to finance Uganda's Covid-19 response</a></li></ul>
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Rwanda rolls out electric motorcycle project to promote carbon-neutral economy</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Joint Rwanda and S. Africa team to guide efforts to mend relations</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Researcher makes case for 'gender quotas' in local mining activities</a></li><li>• <a href="#">COVID-19: Rwanda closes schools, imposes partial lockdown</a></li></ul>
Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">The Government of Sudan, FAO and WFP call for investment in Sudan's agriculture</a></li><li>• <a href="#">UN agencies in Sudan reach conflict-affected communities in non-government-controlled areas for first time in a decade</a></li><li>• <a href="#">U.S. upgrades diplomatic relations with Sudan</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Sudan to receive \$50b in debt relief in about 3 years</a></li></ul>
Somalia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Somali's Puntland Region Takes Major First Step to Ban Female Genital Mutilation</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Somalia's Most Vulnerable Households and Locust Response Efforts to Receive \$185 Million Boost</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Somalia issues election calendar, presidential vote set for October 10</a></li></ul>
South Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Emergency Livelihood Response Program 2021 – 2023</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Uproar greets South Sudan's Covid vaccine giveaway</a></li><li>• <a href="#">S. Sudan received \$116 from World Bank for food projects</a></li><li>• <a href="#">South Sudan's children have to choose between school or work for food</a></li></ul>
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Tanzania yields to UN, lenders calls on Covid data</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Tanzania kept COVID-19 data all along, says deputy minister</a></li><li>• <a href="#">100 days of Samia: Her moves usher in new era of bipartisan politics, growth</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Tanzania makes COVID-19 data public for the first time in a year</a></li></ul>

# VACCINES ADMINISTERED IN HECA AS AT 30TH JUNE 2021

## RWANDA

Vaccines Approved: AstraZeneca BioNTech J&J  
 Vaccine(s) in use: AstraZeneca BioNTech Moderna  
 Priority Groups: HCW, PWC, 50YO or Older, Front/  
 Essential Worker,  
 Population: 13,000,000  
 Total Supply: 976,760 (3.76% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (Total): (95.11% of supply)  
 Vaccine Administered (1 dose): (4.45% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (2 doses): (2.7% of pop)  
 Vaccination Completed: (2.7% of pop)  
 Onset of Campaign: 2/14/2021

## SUDAN

Vaccines Approved: Sinopharm  
 Vaccine(s) in use: AstraZeneca Sinopharm  
 Priority Groups: HCW, PWC, 50YO or Older, ,  
 Population: 43,800,000  
 Total Supply: 1,050,000 (1.2% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (Total): (48.41% of supply)  
 Vaccine Administered (1 dose): (1.16% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (2 doses): (0% of pop)  
 Vaccination Completed: (0% of pop)  
 Onset of Campaign: 3/9/2021

## SOUTH SUDAN

Vaccines Approved: AstraZeneca  
 Vaccine(s) in use: AstraZeneca  
 Priority Groups: HCW, , 50YO or Older, ,  
 Population: 11,200,000  
 Total Supply: 60,000 (0.27% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (Total): (45.56% of supply)  
 Vaccine Administered (1 dose): (0.24% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (2 doses): (0% of pop)  
 Vaccination Completed: (0% of pop)  
 Onset of Campaign: 4/6/2021

## ETHIOPIA

Vaccines Approved: AstraZeneca Sinopharm J&J  
 Vaccine(s) in use: AstraZeneca Sinopharm  
 Priority Groups: HCW, , 50YO or Older, ,  
 Population: 115,000,000  
 Total Supply: 2,500,000 (1.09% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (Total): (80.4% of supply)  
 Vaccine Administered (1 dose): (1.75% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (2 doses): (0% of pop)  
 Vaccination Completed: (0% of pop)  
 Onset of Campaign: 3/13/2021

## SOMALIA

Vaccines Approved: AstraZeneca Sinopharm  
 Vaccine(s) in use: AstraZeneca Sinopharm  
 Priority Groups: HCW, PWC, 50YO or Older, Front/  
 Essential Worker,  
 Population: 15,900,000  
 Total Supply: 500,000 (1.57% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (Total): (27.52% of supply)  
 Vaccine Administered (1 dose): (0.87% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (2 doses): (0% of pop)  
 Vaccination Completed: (0% of pop)  
 Onset of Campaign: 3/16/2021

## KENYA

Vaccines Approved: AstraZeneca Sputnik V  
 Vaccine(s) in use: AstraZeneca  
 Priority Groups: HCW, PWC, 50YO or Older, Front/  
 Essential Worker,  
 Population: 53,800,000  
 Total Supply: 1,242,000 (1.15% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (Total): (104.32% of supply)  
 Vaccine Administered (1 dose): (1.87% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (2 doses): (0.54% of pop)  
 Vaccination Completed: (0.54% of pop)  
 Onset of Campaign: 3/5/2021

## UGANDA

Vaccines Approved: AstraZeneca  
 Vaccine(s) in use: AstraZeneca  
 Priority Groups: HCW, PWC, 50YO or Older, Front/  
 Essential Worker,  
 Population: 45,700,000  
 Total Supply: 964,000 (1.05% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (Total): (88.64% of supply)  
 Vaccine Administered (1 dose): (1.87% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (2 doses): (0% of pop)  
 Vaccination Completed: (0% of pop)  
 Onset of Campaign: 3/10/2021

## DRC

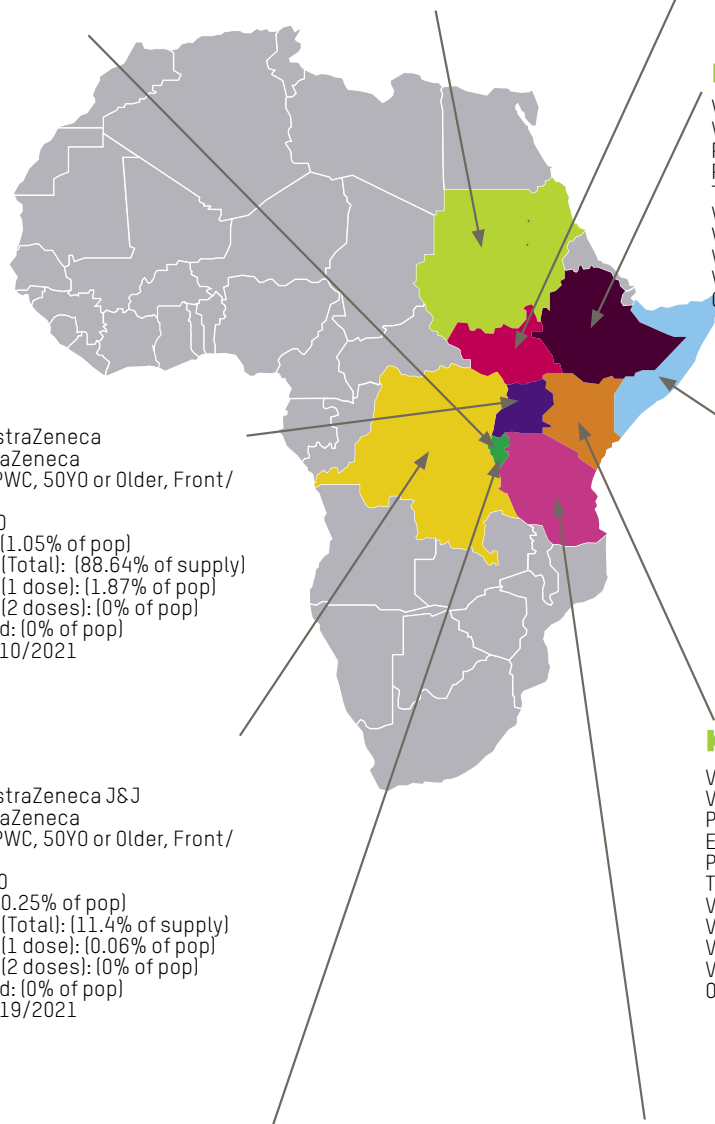
Vaccines Approved: AstraZeneca J&J  
 Vaccine(s) in use: AstraZeneca  
 Priority Groups: HCW, PWC, 50YO or Older, Front/  
 Essential Worker,  
 Population: 89,600,000  
 Total Supply: 451,000 (0.25% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (Total): (11.4% of supply)  
 Vaccine Administered (1 dose): (0.06% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (2 doses): (0% of pop)  
 Vaccination Completed: (0% of pop)  
 Onset of Campaign: 4/19/2021

## BURUNDI

Vaccines Approved: 0  
 Vaccine(s) in use: 0  
 Priority Groups: , , , ,  
 Population: 11,900,000  
 Total Supply: 0 (0% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (Total):  
 Vaccine Administered (1 dose): (0% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (2 doses): (0% of pop)  
 Vaccination Completed: (0% of pop)  
 Onset of Campaign:

## TANZANIA

Vaccines Approved: 0  
 Vaccine(s) in use: 0  
 Priority Groups: , , , ,  
 Population: 59,700,000  
 Total Supply: 0 (0% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (Total):  
 Vaccine Administered (1 dose): (0% of pop)  
 Vaccine Administered (2 doses): (0% of pop)  
 Vaccination Completed: (0% of pop)  
 Onset of Campaign:



Source: <https://africacdc.org/covid-19-vaccination>

# WOMEN BUSINESS' ACCESS TO FINANCE IN SOMALILAND

By Khadar A. Abdi

Despite financial institutions knowing women business owners have lower default rates than men, financial services are not designed to serve them. While half of the urban female business owners are aware of the financial service offers, fewer than 10% have applied for a loan and half of those applications were rejected. Women often lack the collateral or male guarantor required, their businesses are not formally registered, and they are often seeking smaller and more flexible loan offers, which they find through their informal networks and NGO support.

The study sought to better understand how women business owners access finance in Somaliland. The research data collection covered MaroodiJeex and Awdal regions and included a desk review, a survey with 150 women business holders, 19 key informant interviews, nine focus group discussion with women groups, religious and traditional leaders, three case studies with women business owners and observations on the gender-responsive infrastructures available in the financial service providers' premises.

The Somali Resilience Program (SomReP) is a resilience-building consortium that addresses the underlying causes and impacts of vulnerability to climatic shocks. Oxfam is the lead member of this research and has been working in Somalia/Somaliland for over 40 years and has implemented different projects covering different locations. This work supplements Oxfam's existing work to strengthen communities' resilience to shocks and women's economic empowerment by ensuring there is adequate linkage between relief and development.

Only 9% of the surveyed women business owners have applied for a loan from formal financial institutions, while 91% have never applied. Of those who applied for a loan, just over half were accepted, while nearly half were rejected. Of those who did not apply for a loan, the key reasons they mentioned were expensive repayment rates, that financial service providers charge interest/riba, lack of awareness of what services are available, lacking a male guarantor and National ID, which requires a male guarantor and expensive service fees.

54% of urban businesswomen are aware of financial services or institutions that provide business loans.

74% of women businesses, do not have bank accounts and are not legally registered with the Somaliland Chamber of Commerce or the Ministry of Commerce, but 95% have mobile money accounts used to store and transfer money. Registering a business at 300-400 USD is very expensive for small business owners and is a complicated process that involves having/obtaining a nation ID card, which in turn requires a male guarantor. This is a significant challenge that makes it harder for women to register businesses and open a bank account.



*"I wanted the loan to expand my business [and] though I have met all the other conditions, my application was rejected for lack of guarantor. I was very disappointed as I have spent weeks putting together requirements and visited the office multiple times while forgoing running my business and household chores. With little hope, I am now appealing to the senior management of the bank, I believe my application was turned down due to my gender. I will approach other financial institutions for similar purposes. I am also aware of many other women whose applications were rejected by commercial banks. I am urging the government to intervene and convince the financial institutions to relax the conditions for accessing loans."*

One of the main challenges women face when trying to access finance from financial institutions is the collateral and/or guarantor.

If the condition of the guarantor or collateral is satisfied, financial providers likely waive some of the other due diligence processes—a process that women struggle to access due to an unequal socio-economic positioning. Women themselves are often writing their son's and husband's names on their asset titles such as land, which in turn forces them to access their land through husbands and sons when applying for a loan from formal financial institutions. Women become trapped in a vicious circle of relying on male guarantors whenever accessing finance. Also, the family male guarantor requirement for women to get a national identification card is unwritten but fully enforced in practice.

All the financial institutions interviewed for this research unanimously agreed that women's default rate on loans is meagre compared to men's. There are five main groups from Somaliland's formal financial ecosystem: Somaliland Central Bank, Islamic Commercial banks, Money Transfer Organizations (MTOs), Microfinance Institutions (MFI), Mobile Money Operators (MMOs) and NGOs. Commercial banks and microfinance institutions are credit service providers, MTOs and MMOs are money transfer platforms, and NGOs provide interest free revolving funds and grants to poor and marginalized groups.

Many women prefer informal loans, as they are more flexible, have low-interest rates and extended repayment periods. Women small business owners can access cash grants and loans through friends, relatives, neighbours, diaspora networks, clan members, extended families, moneylenders, and Hagbed. The lowest credit limit is 3,000 USD for many commercial banks and women small business owners are generally looking for loans between 200-800 USD to grow their businesses. NGOs play an important facilitator role for marginalized women accessing formal finance. To overcome the stringent conditions of accessing loans, local NGOs organize women's self-help groups and connect them with formal financial institutions. More marginalized women groups are now accessing credit through these mechanisms as it has increased both the women's and the financial

institutions trust in each other. 61% of surveyed women think that men businesses are better positioned than women businesses to get a loan from the local financial institutions, while 39% did not agree.

Along with many other barriers and constraints, men have more time to socialize and access information while women suffer from time poverty which is often due to a large amount of unpaid care work.

This report generates evidence and provides an in-depth understanding of women's context when trying to access finance in Somaliland. To obtain balanced and reliable data, the research covered a wide range of social groups from demand and supply sides such as women business holders, individual women, financial institutions, government, religious and cultural leaders, and development agencies.

Finally, the analysis of the research findings indicates the constraints women face when accessing finance are far worse than reported in this report, but women could not raise many rights violations because they are not aware of their rights.



[Click here to get the full report.](#)

# MY VOICE TOWARDS WOMEN AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOR GENDER EQUALITY

By Dorah Ntunga

Oxfam recognizes the challenge of gender inequality faced by communities especially women and youth. These are mostly a result of the patriarchal societies that continue to discriminate and exclude women and youth from meaningfully participating in political and social-economic aspects of life.

This, in turn, has contributed to the uneven distribution of power creating a huge gap between women and men. Achieving gender equality requires economically empowered women who can take up leadership roles and stand for marginalised groups to challenge injustices in their communities such as gender-based violence. This required a conducive legal and policy framework for all.

Working with partners, we are enhancing the capacity of women and youth to take up leadership positions and influence decisions that affect their lives. We are also strengthening their skills for increased production

and incomes as well as empowering them with the knowledge to address gender-based violence.

In Uganda, the Irish Aid Programme 2 Grant whose overall goal is to achieve resilient, inclusive and sustainable livelihoods, has helped rewrite the gender inequality story. The project is implemented under two specific objectives i.e., Increased women/youth economic empowerment and greater equality. The project is implemented in seven districts of Arua, Nebbi, Pakwach, Gulu, Lamwo, and Kaabong in partnership with six other organizations along with their sub-partners.

As a result of this collective effort, the programme has reached over 5,000 people directly and over 3 million indirectly.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)



*"We the women beekeepers of Jimos cell in Kotido are proud of our new skills. We now weave our traditional beehives using local materials and this has saved us a lot of money that we would use to buy Kenya Top Bar (KTB) hives and yet getting the same quantities of honey. A traditional beehive can cost Ugx25,000 while the KTB costs Ugx100,000 and above. Besides that, we now no longer have to depend on men to make hives for us, we have expanded our apiary as a group, and we intend to make many more hives moving forward."*

# PUTTING THE FURTHEST BEHIND FIRST

By Jeffrey Maganya and Julie Kedroske

COVID-19 is a humanitarian crisis of catastrophic proportions with no signs of abating. 130 million more people experienced chronic hunger last year, and approximately 150 million people will be forced into extreme poverty by the end of 2021. The pandemic is exacerbating existing inequalities in gender, race, and wealth, which will significantly worsen without urgent action. Oxfam's recent report, *The Inequality Virus*, finds that 87 percent of economists expect income inequality to increase in their countries as a result of COVID-19. What is more, women are overrepresented in the parts of the global economy worst hit by the pandemic – if there were gender parity in these sectors, 112 million women would not be at high risk of losing their livelihoods.

To combat rising hunger, poverty, and inequality, we need universal social protection systems which uplift marginalised groups equitably and inclusively. COVID-19 has made clear that existing safety nets are full of holes leaving millions of people without adequate support to meet their basic needs. Even before the pandemic, IGC research from 123 countries found that only 15 percent of the total population of low-income countries was protected by even a single social assistance programme, including only 21 percent of people in the poorest fifth of the population.

By focusing on the inclusion of the most vulnerable people in social safety nets, we can work towards universal social protection in a just and equitable manner. We must also treat social protection as a human right to achieve universality. Governments have a duty to ensure a minimum level of education, healthcare, housing, and nutrition for their people. Countries must consider anyone falling below this level as living in a state of emergency and prioritize programs and policies which meet their basic needs.

While reactive policies that address immediate humanitarian needs are essential, governments must take measures to build resilience to shocks, encourage economic recovery, and prevent crises of this scale in the future. We need social protection systems to be more adaptive, inclusive, and comprehensive so that they build resilience for vulnerable populations and

prioritise the needs of those currently left behind. In striving for universal social protection, there does not need to be a trade-off between gender equity and universal coverage. Viewing social protection as a human right means governments cannot discriminate on who should be covered. That also means governments must ensure equitable access to social protection for women, which requires them to factor a gender perspective into all programs and policies. While both women and men are affected by extreme poverty, women have a considerably harder time escaping poverty, as their rights are not often protected.

We believe in progressive universalism – the idea that we should prioritize the most vulnerable people when designing social programs, then work to extend the same protections to broader segments of society. Through our work, BRAC Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative (UPGI) and Oxfam both focus on putting the furthest behind first, connecting them to available public services and helping existing safety nets become fully universal. During COVID-19, both organizations have played a role in strengthening the capacity of governments to support vulnerable populations.

Over the years, Kenya has built a social protection system targeting poor and marginalised people through state and non-state actors including the National Safety Net Programme (Inua Jamii) which has reached over 1.1 million recipients during the COVID pandemic. In addition to Inua Jamii, Oxfam in Kenya, The Kenyan Red Cross Society, Concern Worldwide, ACTED, IMPACT, the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness, and the Wangu Kanja Foundation worked with Government of Kenya to support poorer urban households in Nairobi's informal settlements disproportionately affected by COVID-19. A European Union grant provided 80,000 households with monthly cash transfers for three months, beginning in June 2020. The cash transfer, through mobile money transfer, complemented the Ministry of Labour's Inua Jamii programme which had 11,250 households receiving KES 5,668 per month. A further 8,750 households, identified through the "Nyumba Kumi" system and independently verified by the Kenya Red Cross Society received KES 7,668 per month. The project improved food security covering



half of the recipients' food needs, and other essential costs such as soap, water, rent, and mobile phone airtime.

By prioritizing people in urban poverty during the pandemic, the Inua Jamii programme adapted to become more inclusive while strengthening resilience for the most vulnerable populations. Throughout the pandemic, BRAC UPGI has also adapted its holistic anti-poverty intervention, the Graduation approach, to help households in extreme poverty meet their basic needs and build resilient livelihoods. By connecting people to available government services, we aim to help social protection systems become more inclusive of the poorest people while leveraging existing programmes and resources to strengthen anti-poverty interventions. For example, the Philippines Department of Labor and Employment Graduation programme, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank and BRAC UPGI, helped participants receive emergency aid during lockdowns. As a result, 96% received emergency cash transfers from the national government and 92% received food aid from their local governments. Crucially during the pandemic, people in extreme poverty frequently face obstacles in accessing healthcare. The Graduation approach involves coaching participants on how to access existing government insurance or health services, linking them in social protection systems from which they were previously excluded.

### Towards universal, right-based social protection

COVID-19 has made clear how many people are excluded from existing social protection systems. To prepare for the next global crisis, we need to ensure that the safety nets meant to catch us when we are vulnerable actually catch everyone. We must consider the lack of coverage for the people who are most vulnerable as a crisis in itself and a failure of the international community to uphold their basic rights.

To advance towards universal social protection will require a multi-stakeholder approach. Governments, NGOs, civil society, private sector partners, researchers, and others should support programs and policies that better meet the needs of the poorest people as a matter of respecting the essential dignity of every human being. International backing for a Global Fund for Social Protection would support low-income countries in expanding existing systems to

meet the basic needs of their people in times of crisis, for instance. Ultimately, reaching universal social protection will require the global community to truly treat it as a human right.

### About the authors

Jeffrey Maganya is Oxfam's Regional Advisor, Social Protection for the Horn, East, and Central Africa and Julie Kedroske is BRAC Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative's Senior Technical Advisor.

## A TRIBUTE TO RITAH NASENREKO



It is with deep sadness, to write the words "Rest In Peace" in honour of Ritah Nansereko because it is hard to believe that she is no longer with us! Rita was the Executive Director of African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD) in Uganda. Sadly, she lost the battle to COVID-19 on 25th June 2021. To honour her amazing contribution, Ritah was celebrated as a real-life Hero by Oxfam during the 2020 World Refugee Day – A Day she spent sharing her views on various webinars about local humanitarian leadership. May her soul rest in peace!

"Ritah was a passionate, intelligent and committed leader. I recall her statement during the recent Charter 4 Change meeting in Kampala– that she is an example of how Oxfam has empowered local actors in Uganda; Oxfam's funding to AWYAD did not only generate interest from other partners to consider her organization as credible to be funded, but she benefitted from the different platforms provided to make her a solid advocate of localization of humanitarian actions in Uganda and globally. Her legacy should live on to inspire more young feminist leaders in Uganda." Francis Shanty Odokorach. Country Director, Oxfam/Uganda.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

## OTHER UPDATES FROM ETHIOPIA AND DRC

### Categorisation of the Tigray crisis in Ethiopia to a Category 1 emergency

Following meetings with the Ethiopia Country Programme, the HECA region, GHT, OGB as well as the EA, Oxfam has decided to revise the categorisation of the Tigray crisis in Ethiopia to a Category 1 (CAT 1) emergency.

This is in response to the hunger analysis recently conducted by the [IPC](#) and expectations that the situation will deteriorate further. This is an extremely serious food crisis and the highest number of people we've seen in a country in IPC 5 since Somalia in 2011. In comparison, there are currently "only" 133,000 people in IPC 5 in all other countries combined (these are in South Sudan, Yemen, and Burkina Faso) – whereas we are looking at over 350,000 people in IPC 5 for Tigray alone in the current period. The analysis forecasts that this will increase to 401,000 in IPC 5 in Tigray from July to September, even with the assumption that humanitarian food assistance will scale up significantly to cover 60% of the population during that period (compared to covering an average of only 37% from January to April). If this expansion doesn't happen, or if conflict intensifies or expands, or the situation otherwise worsens, then we could be looking at an even worse deterioration.

Oxfam is working with the Country Team and Rights in Crisis team as well as the media team on messaging that can be used publicly as well as more messaging to use for private lobby with trusted contacts.

We will be sharing more information on this in the next update of the newsletter. For more information contact [francesco.rigamonti@oxfam.org](mailto:francesco.rigamonti@oxfam.org); [GGebrehana@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:GGebrehana@oxfam.org.uk); [TTefera@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:TTefera@oxfam.org.uk); and [Zubin.Zaman@oxfam.org](mailto:Zubin.Zaman@oxfam.org).

### Oxfam deeply shocked and saddened over the killing of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) aid workers

This month, Oxfam was shocked and strongly condemned the circumstances leading to and the killing of MSF aid workers Maria Hernandez, Yohannes Haleform Reda and Tedros Gebremariam Gebremichael in Tigray.

We condemn, in totality, this atrocity, and we extend our condolences to the families of the victims and MSF, we stand in solidarity with MSF and the families of the aid workers who were tirelessly working to serve the estimated 5 million people in need in Tigray (UNOCHA, 2021).

Attacks targeting humanitarian workers, facilities, and services violate international humanitarian law and amounts to war crimes as per UNSC Resolution 1502. Several aid workers have been killed in Tigray since the beginning of the crisis in November 2020. All parties in this armed conflict must respect international law; provide safe and unhindered access for humanitarian service delivery to ensure assistance reaches all people that are in need.

### DR Congo plans the gradual return of displaced volcano-affected residents

Following the decline in seismic activity of volcano Nyiragongo over the past four days, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is planning a gradual return of displaced people of Goma, said DRC government spokesman Patrick Muyaya on 2nd July 2021.

Meanwhile, the government once again called on the population to remain vigilant, listen to information, and strictly observe the instructions of the provincial authorities.

Goma, the capital of the DRC's north-eastern province of North Kivu, is home to two active volcanoes, namely Nyamulagira and Nyiragongo. Nyiragongo erupted on May 22, killing at least 32 people.

More than 400,000 people have hastily sought refuge in Sake and other surrounding cities of Goma after authorities ordered on May 27 the evacuation of several neighborhoods in Goma that were haunted by the risk of a possible second eruption of Nyiragongo.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Key contact at the Regional Platform

- Parvin Ngala | Regional Director - Interim | [parvin.ngala@oxfam.org](mailto:parvin.ngala@oxfam.org)
- Francesco Rigamonti | Regional Humanitarian Coordinator | [Francesco.Rigamonti@oxfam.org](mailto:Francesco.Rigamonti@oxfam.org)

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Photo by Abdiaziz Adani/Oxfam

# OXFAM IN HECA

Partnering with local communities, national organizations and regional institutions to drive transformative change in lived experiences.

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